THE *Perquiſite-Monger:*

OR THE

RISE and FALL OF INGRATITUDE.

BEING

One of the Stories, which the Monks of *Godſtow* were formerly wont to divert Fair *Roſamond* with, and which may ſerve to clear up ſeveral Abſurdities in the Hiſtory of Prince *Mirabel.*

Made Publick from an Original Manuſcript lately found in the Ruines of *Woodſtock-Bower.*

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter.* 1712. Price 3 *d.*

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THE Perquisite-Monger, &c.

DUring the Reign of *Chosroes*, King of *Persia*, one *Artemidorus*, Son to one of the Clerks of the Kitchen, otherwise of very mean Extraction, was on account of his Father's Residence at Court often admitted to the Benefit of the Royal Eye, and the Advantage of being known to the most considerable Persons about his Majesty. Amongst others that were taken with the Comelineſs of his Person, and the Gracefulneſs of his Deportment, *Mermeroes* the King's only Brother, who was a Prince of wonderful Humanity and Condeſcention, diſtinguiſh'd his Regard for him, by asking him for his Page, which was an Honour too great not to be complied with by his Parents.

Artemidorus, for his Part, tho' not advanc'd to an Age of Underſtanding, was of Knowledge ſufficient to foreſee, that this new Poſt was an Earneſt of ſomething more Conſiderable, and a ſure Indication of approaching Greatneſs: Therefore he made it his Endea-

vour ſo to demean himſelf, as to conciliate his Maſter's Affections more and more to him, and get poſſeſs'd of a full Enjoyment of thoſe Favours, which he was at that time only juſt admitted to a Taſte of.

In order to this, he had no ſooner found that *Mermeroes*'s Exceſs of good Nature, led him to the Love of Women, eſpecially to ſome Advances in particular towards his Sister *Aſpaſia*, who had Wit and Beauty enough to engage the preſumptive Heir of *Perſia* in her Service, but he ſo brought Matters to bear, that without any Regard to Chaſtity, or the Honour of her Sex, ſhe was proſtituted to that Prince's Embraces.

Hence it was that an Intereſt which gain'd its firſt Footing by gratifying his Maſter's Luſt, was admitted into an Eſtabliſhment by his continuing to adminiſter to the ſame Pleaſures; and *Aſpaſia* gain'd ſuch an Aſcendant over *Mermeroes*, in progreſs of Time, that her Brother was not only made Maſter of the Robes to his Royal Highneſs, but an Officer in the King's Body Guards.

But as the laſt of theſe Princes had Inclinations full as tender as the firſt, (if not more liable to the Impreſſions of the Fair Sex) ſo in the Seraglio of Ladies that had Penſions aſſign'd them for their ready Submiſſion to the Royal Will, a certain Mandarin's Lady that had quitted her Husband's for her Sovereign's Bed, was chiefly eminent for Beauty and Addreſs. Her Name was *Statira*, and her Inclinations too

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volatile and roving to be confin'd within the common Bounds of a Concubine; beſides, ſhe had ſo many Rivals in the King's Affections, as ſhe made no ſcruple to ſerve him after the ſame manner with abundance in hers. Amongſt thoſe who inſinuated themſelves into her beſt Graces, *Artemidorus* his Youth and winning Behaviour gave him the Preference, and the Lady had ſo given into the Opinion of his inviolate Paſſion and Fidelity, that whatever Sums of Mony ſhe could obtain from the King for her own private Expences, were profuſely beſtowed upon this new Minion, in-ſo-much that in a very ſmall time he was Maſter of as many Centenaries of Gold by her Bounty, as amounted to Ten Thouſand Pounds *Engliſh* Mony.

When Fortune that took it into her Thoughts to advance him by another ſort of Warfare than ſignalizing his Abilities in Engagements amongſt the Petticoats, made a Diſcovery of the private Intrigues carried on between the two Lovers, and the King himſelf was made ſenſible of their Guilt, by finding him Shut up in a Cloſet belonging to *Statira*'s Bedchamber, whence he had withdrawn to hide himſelf, without his Cloaths and in great Diſorder.

Amongſt the *Perſians*, it was a Captial Offence for any Subject to enter the King's *Seraglio*, but the Eunuchs who belong'd to it, much more to have ſo criminal a Correſpondence with any of the Royal Miſtreſſes as this appear'd to be: However,

However, *Chosroes* out of an innate Aversion to any thing that look'd like Cruelty, and the natural Disposition he had to shew as little Severity as possible to a Lady whom he had insinuated to his Embraces on his first Accession to the Regal Dignity; and a Person that was the Favourite of a Brother so dear to him as *Mermeroes*; thought fit only to discontinue his Familiarity with the one, and command the other by way of Punishment to Head a Company of *Persian* Auxiliaries, which he with other Forces was sending to the Assistance of the King of *Armenia*, his fast Friend and Confederate.

Artemidorus, who had accomplish'd his Desires rather in getting Possession of *Statyra*'s Mony, than in the Enjoyment of her Charms, thank'd his good Fortune for coming off so cheaply, and took an Opportunity from hence to get rid of an Amour that could not well be any further Beneficial to him, after he had drein'd her of such an immense Sum as the foregoing part of this Relation has told you of. The Love of acquiring Wealth was the Passion he was most eagerly given to, and there was nothing in the most consummate Beauty that could stand in Competition with it; wherefore tho' it was not his Choice to be separated from the Prince, Royal whose Esteem he was more and more growing into, and who sent him Abroad with an Equipage very little inferior to that of a General Officer, yet he made a Vertue

cue of Neceſſity, and ſeem'd to expreſs ſuch an Ardour and Affection for a Military Life, as the braveſt Officer in the Army could not boaſt of. Tho' his Courage and Gratitude were equally put to the Trial, before his Departure to *Armenia*; the firſt, in giving his Maſter to underſtand that he had received a Challenge from a Brother Officer, that his Authority might interpoſe and prevent the Conſequences of it; the laſt, in refuſing the Loan of only ten Gold Centenaries to his Miſtreſs, who had run out the little Stock he had left her, at Play, and ask'd a Trifle of him, in Compariſon to what ſhe had given him.

The Letters of Recommendation he brought with him to *Armenia*, were of ſuch Force, as to get him into the good Graces of the Chief Commanders of the Army, eſpecially thoſe of the great *Arſaces* the Generaliſſimo, who having made ſeveral Campaigns formerly with his Maſter *Mermeroes* while he took Refuge in the Court of *Armenia*, had a particular Regard for him, and upon his very firſt arrival, ſtyl'd him by the Name of the *Handſome Young Perſian*. In a word, every thing he did was taken Notice of to his Advantage, and he had all the Encouragement given him that was poſſible to make a brave and experienc'd Officer. But as he was of a timorous Diſpoſition, which was falſly call'd by ſuch as would eſpy no Faults in him, a *cautious way of Proceedure*; ſo he was not one of the moſt forward to petition

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for any hazardous Enterprize, or get, what the Soldiers call the Poſt of Honour, aſſign'd him. However, *Arſaces*, to give him an Opportunity of ſignalizing both his Courage and Conduct, ſent him at the Head of a Detachment to defend a certain Paſs which he ſaw would be attempted by the Enemy, and which might have been eaſily maintain'd by a leſs Number of Forces. But *Artemidorus* was no ſooner attack'd in this Poſt, but he ſhamefully quitted it without the Loſs of one Man, upon which, *Mebodes*, an *Armenian* Lieutenant General came to *Arſaces*'s Tent, and ſaid, *My Lord, your* Young Handſome Perſian *is turn'd very Baſhful, and has retreated from ſuch a Bridge without looking the Enemy in the Face. How!* cry'd *Arſaces*, who would have puniſh'd ſuch a Breach of Orders in any other Perſon, with Death, *I'll lay you ſo many Veſſels of* Lesbian *Wine, and ſo many fat Bucks, that he recovers it again.* Upon which the Fugitive was commanded out with a Party three times more numerous than the Enemy, and then the Paſs was at laſt gain'd with great Difficulty, tho' in the Preſence of the Chief General, who would himſelf be an Eye-witneſs of his Behaviour, and an Encouragement to him in the Onſet.

For carrying the Poſt he had before ſo ſhamefully loſt, he was immediately careſs'd and made a Colonel, and ſo continu'd during the Reſidue of the *Armenian* War, without any other Mark of Diſtinction than in being highly

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in Favour with *Arsaces*, who omitted nothing that might conduce to his Advantage, and suffer'd him to call those things *Perquisites* to the Colonel, that wholly and solely appertain'd to the Regiment. There was not so much as a Baggage-Waggon but he must have a *Perquisite* out of, and an *Ammunition-Loaf* could not escape him, unless it was first *Chipp'd* and made Advantage of by him. The very Soldier's Straw for their Tents was bought of him; and it was a *Perquisite* belonging to his Place, to *retail* the very Things which the Sutlers of other Regiments made Sale of; and not so much as a *Sandal* was made use of, nor a Cup of Liquor drunk, that did not pay its proper Duties to the Colonel. To be as brief as possible, he so manag'd Matters, and carried on his Extortions so long, that the very Soldiers Pay was at last become a *Perquisite* belonging to his Office, and he had certainly been Broke, or treated much worse for these sort of Practices, upon his coming home into *Persia* with the Regiments Mony, had not the very Lady that had been before so free of her greatest Favours to him, step'd in between him and Danger, and made up Matters for him with the Court of *Armenia*, to the great Obstruction of Justice, and Disappointment of the poor Soldiers.

A Peace being clap'd up between the King of *Armenia* and the Potentates he was at War with, *Artemidorus*, to his Heart's Desire, was at liberty to prosecute his Beloved Exercise of

amaſſing Mony together, without any Apprehenſion of having a Stop put to it by a Sword or an Arrow; and made it his Buſineſs to increaſe his Intereſt with *Mermeroes*, by whoſe Aſſiſtance he had hopes of climbing up to the higheſt Pinnacle of Honour and Greatneſs. His Maſter had two Daughters, *Mariana* and *Annaſtaſia*, the firſt was given in Marriage to *Moneſes*, a Siſter's Son, a ſort of a Prince among the *Parthians*; the laſt was a Maiden Lady, who being always in her Father's Eye, and intended for the Eſpouſals of a Prince that was to take up his Reſidence in *Perſia*, won upon his Affections daily more and more, and grew the Object of his greateſt Indulgence. This Princeſs *Annaſtaſia*, had amongſt the young Women that attended her, one *Zaruida*, a Perſon of a mean Extraction, but who had by the Subtlety of her Mother, that was a noted humble Servant to the Pleaſures of certain Great Men, and her own Inclinations, ſo worm'd her ſelf into the Confidence of her Miſtreſs, as to be in the higheſt Eſteem with her. Nor was her Beauty leſs conſiderable than her Cunning, and tho' ſhe could not be ſaid to come up to the moſt excelling *Statira*, yet ſhe fell ſo little ſhort of her, that ſhe had Charms enough to captivate a leſs Amorous Diſpoſition than was to be found in *Artemidorus*.

The Gracefulneſs of their Perſons made them as agreeable to each other as the Temperament of their Minds, and (whereſoever Mar-

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riages are said to be made) they seem'd destin'd for each other, from the Passions they were reciprocally addicted to. As he was Avaritious, so was she; as he was Fraudulent and Ambitious, so was she; as he was perfectly well skill'd in imposing upon the Credulity of the Prince whom he serv'd, so was she. In a Word, they were equally possess'd of every Qualification that was necessary to create a good Understanding between them, and the very same in every thing but the Modification of their Bodies, which tho' not the same, were as if animated by one and the same Soul. There was little occasion for any Formalities of Courtship under these Circumstances; and *Artemidorus*, howsoever unlike the Great *Cæsar* in other things, resembled him in this, that *He came, and saw, and conquer'd*, the Lady fell into his Arms, and made him one of the most miserable of Men, by her Endeavours to make him Happy.

The Princess *Annastasia* was not without repeated Solicitations, after this Conjugal Alliance, on the part of *Zaraida*, who was importunate with her for new Grants to her Husband, who was soon after by hers and her Father's Interceſſion with King *Chosroes*, made a Mandarin of *Persarmenia*, a Kingdom contiguous to the Confines of *Persia*: Nor was an additional Pension wanting to this new Dignity, which still swell'd it self into a greater Imposthumation of Wealth, by his being thereupon, made First

Gentleman of the Bedchamber to *Mermeroes*, a Poſt to be not enjoy'd by any one under the Degree of a Mandarin.

When it happen'd that *Mermeroes* grew ſuſpected by ſeveral of the Nobility and Gentry of *Perſia*, for a Worſhipper of *Mahomet*, whoſe Doctrines were quite oppoſite to thoſe of the Prophet *Hali*, who is the principal Object of the *Perſians Adoration*; upon which *Choſroes*, who had all the Brotherly Affection that could be ſhewn to a Prince of his extraordinary Merit, deputed him for his Viceroy of *Perſarmenia*, in hopes that his Abſence from his own Court would render ineffectual ſome Schemes that were in Agitation to ſet him aſide from the Succeſſion, of the Throne of thoſe Realms, which his Hereditary Right entitled him to.

Accordingly, that Prince, to the great Grief of all true Loyaliſts, took Shipping for his Government, with the chiefeſt of his Domeſticks, amongſt whom was the new Mandarin, *Artemidorus*, in whoſe Hands the moſt important Affairs of the Houſhold were entruſted. When Heaven, to give freſh Proofs of *Mermeroes* his firmneſs of Mind and Intrepidity, thought fit to ſuffer the Veſſel that carried him to be ſtranded. Upon which Accident it appear'd more and more what a tender Concern he had for *Artemidorus* his Preſervation; for when the Barge was hoiſted down for the Prince to make his Eſcape, he would not go into it till this Servant of his was call'd to ſit by him, and ſeveral

Peſons

Persons of High Distinction, in the Number of which was his own Lady's near Relation, were left to the Mercy of the Waves which soon after swallow'd them up, that he might owe his Safety to that very Hand, which his Titles and Possessions were already due to.

After this Miraculous Deliverance, *Mermaroes*, with the Remains of his Retinue, reach'd the Port design'd, and continued in his Government long enough to enrich his Favourite to such a Degree as impoverish'd the *Persarmenian* Treasury. For tho' the Prince himself was in Temper very frugal, and as much fam'd for good Husbandry as Justice, yet, as all Disbursements and Receipts were to run thro' *Artemidorus* his Hands, he had Opportunity of making great Sums of ready Mony stick to his Fingers. Besides, he was the Master Key that open'd all the Doors at Court, and the Sale of his Royal Highnesses Favours was a *Perquisite* belonging to his Office. The Military and Civil Lists were fill'd with Creatures of his Establishment, and not a Pension was assign'd to any one, without his going Shares in the Profits arising from it. Not a Tradesman's Bill was paid off, but so much was deducted by way of Poundage, and it was but leaving so many Centenaries in his Antichamber Window, and the Person that did it, was instantly provided for. In short, had not his Master been recall'd from *Persia*, by his Brother *Chosroes*, who lov'd him too tenderly to bear with his Absence any

longer,

longer, and who found his Subjects in a better Temperament of Mind than *Mermeroes* left them in, he had carried on his Extortions so far as to have made himself as wealthy as he was odious the Inhabitants of that Province. But he was destin'd to come to his Zewith of Riches in another Kingdom, and oblig'd to attend *Mermeroes* in his Return, who sometime after succeeded to the Imperial Crown, with all the Advantages that a Prince was capable of being bless'd with.

Chosroes had left his Realm, at his Decease, in a profound Tranquillity, and was gather'd to his Fathers with a Character truly Pacifick; but the Prince his Successor was of a Warlike Genius, and so sensible of the Instability of his *Persian Subjects*, who could not brook the *Mahometan Religion*, (that being not the Worship in Vogue in this Country) that he raised an Army of standing Forces to make them know their Duty, should they be so Hardy as to depart from it. In this Army, *Artemidorus* had the Title of Lieutenant General, and none perform'd better at Mock Sieges and Encampments, where they had none but Friends to deal with, than this fortunate Heroe, who upon his Master's first Elevation to the Regal Dignity, was created one of the Mandarins of *Persia*, invested with the Command of a Regiment of Horse, and a Troop of *Lanciers*, besides the Continuance in his other Posts. But Promotions that are made too hastily, very often turn

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the Brains of those who are advanc'd by them, and the good King, after he had happily quash'd a Rebellion that broke out in the beginning of his Reign, experienc'd, that the greatest Obligations are not of Force enough to bind some People to the Exercise of their Duty. There was one *Sanderades* that was Chief Secretary to the Prince, a Person of very loose and abandon'd Principles, a mere Prostitute in Matters of Religion, and who (whether brib'd or no by *Monestes*, *Mariana*'s Husband, for that Purpose, remains a Secret) to ingratiate himself with his Master, had renounc'd the Precepts of *Hali* for *Mahomet*'s *Alcoran*. This *Sunderades* not only push'd the King forward upon Schemes that were destructive of the Constitution, but gave out by his Emissaries among the People, That the Coronation Oath was broken, Liberty and Property was invaded, and that they had nothing to expect from a Prince that was of the *Mahometan* Persuasion, but the Loss of every thing that was dear to them in Matters Religious as well as Civil. The King was caution'd against this Minister of State by those about him, who were his real Friends; but whether he was infatuated, or of a Nature free from suspecting others to be Deceitful, because of his own Integrity, would not give Credit to their Informations.

He was likewise told, that *Artemidorus*, his Favourite *Mandarin*, had given them Reason to think he was no better than *Sunderades*, from

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the frequent Consultations they held together, and the Intimacy that was between them, for it seems, the Secretary, by the plausibility of his Address, and a Promise of vast Rewards from *Moneses* the King's Son in Law, had drawn him over to his Interest; but he was deaf to such Discourses, and thought it as impossible for that Mandarin to depart from his Allegiance, as it was for the Sun to alter its Course. But the Event prov'd him mistaken, for *Sanderades* had so blinded him with the *Parthian* Gold Dust, that he not only set his Hand to invite *Moneses* to invade his Master's Territories, but undertook to deliver the King's Sacred Person into his Hands. Shame, Confusion, Horror, seize me while I am mentioning this Particular, and he had been as good as his Word, for he had got his Master's Promise, upon the Arrival of the Prince of *Parthia*, with an Armed Force, to go to a certain Garrison where his Regiment was quarter'd, under Pretence of Reviewing them, but in order to have him intercepted by a Party of the Enemy who were appriz'd of the Design, tho' the King very lucily laid by that Design thro' the means of a slight Indisposition. However, *Artemidorus* on the very next Day deserted to the Enemy, after he had left a Letter for the King full of Expressions of Duty, and Regret for leaving him at a time when he stood in most need of his Assistance, but, he was such a strict Observer of the Prophet *Hali*'s Doctrines, that

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even Obedience to Princes must be postpon'd to other Considerations on the Account of Conscience.

A general Defection ensu'd upon this Run-a-way's Example, and a Revolution follow'd, that was as surprizing in its Consequences, as it was in its Nature. *Mermeroes* was dethron'd for Male-Administration, and the Prince of *Parthia* settled upon it; who instantly to reward *Artemidorus* for his Fidelity to his last Master, took him into his own Service, made him a Mandarin of a higher Rank and Title, admitted him into his Privy Council, and gave him a Commission to be Commander in Chief of an Army that was to make an Expedition against two strong Sea-Port Towns in an adjacent Kingdom that remain'd unsubdu'd, and would not submit to *Moneses*'s Obedience. The Towns were accordingly taken, more the Cowardice of the Besieged, than the Valour of the Assailants, and he return'd home with Spoils as rather shew'd the Avarice than the Glory of a Conqueror. for he not only pillag'd the Inhabitants after he had agreed with to surrender upon Honourable Conditions, but defrauded his own Soldiers, by whose Labours he grew formidable, of their Pay, under pretence, that the Ship with the Army's Cash in it, was unfortunately blown up, and so it was, but not till the Money was remov'd elsewhere, tha the upon his return

 home,

home, might build a ſtately Country Houſe with it.

Things went ſwimmingly in his Favour for ſome time, and he was entruſted with all the new King's Secrets, till in the Courſe of the *Armenian* War, for *Artaxerxes* King of that Country, in purſuance of an Offenſive League between him and *Mermeroes*, had taken Arms in his Favour, a Diſcovery was made, that a Deſign againſt a certain Frontier Town was made known to the Enemy, and the Governour hang'd for keeping a criminal Correſpondence with the *Perſians*. *Moneſes* was ſenſible that no one breathing was acquainted with it but *Portlades*, a *Parthian* whom he brought into *Perſia* with him, and *Artemidorus*, therefore charg'd the latter with this Breach of Fidelity, who could not deny but he had communicated it to his Wife *Zaraida*, that had a Siſter in the Service of the exil'd *Mermeroes*. What indue'd her to this Intercourſe with the Enemies, Hiſtory does not relate, but ſeveral Conjectures were rais'd concerning the Reaſons; as, that her Husband was diſatisfy'd at the growing Greatneſs of *Portlades*, who from a private Perſon was made a Manderin, of the ſame Dignity with himſelf, and loaded with continual Favours by the King, as Grants of fortify'd Eſtates, *&c.* that all that had been promiſed him by *Sunderades* in the Name of the Prince of *Parthia* by the King had not been made good, and that inſtead of being firſt in his new Maſter's Affections,

Affections, he could not ſo much as be a ſecond or third. Whatſoever was the Cauſe, the Effect was made appear by his immediate Diſmiſſion from all his Places; and even the Princeſs *Annaſtaſia*, tho' the preſumptive Heireſs of the *Perſian* Crown, was ſoon after in Diſgrace her ſelf, becauſe ſhe would not do the ſame by *Zaraida*.

Thus was this ambitious Man, who was admitted into one Prince's Eſteem for being falſe to another, tumbled from the Precipice of Grandeur into a Private Life, for doing the ſame thing by the laſt as he did by the firſt; and ſet aſide from all his Employments but that of being Governour to the young Prince *Iſdegerdes*, who was only Son to the Princeſs above-mention'd. During this inactivity of Life, *Moneſes*, after making an inglorious Peace with *Artaxerxes*, fell ſick, and finding Death approaching, for ſome Reaſons beſt known to himſelf, nominated *Artemidorus* for Captain General of the Forces he had rais'd to renew the War againſt the *Armenians*, and recommended him as ſuch to his Succeſſor *Annaſtaſia*, who was too great a Favourer of him and *Zaraida* not to give her Aſſent. He enter'd upon this Office with all the Advantages that it was poſſible for any one to ſtand poſſeſs'd of, and thro' the means of a ſtrong Alliance with other Powers engag'd with him in the ſame Quarrel, the gracious Diſpoſitions of the Queen his Miſtreſs, to enable him to be Succeſsful,

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and the large Sums that were appropriated for his Service by her faithful Subjects, he was call'd, at the end of the very firſt Campaign he made, the *Retriever* of the *Perſian* Nation's Honour, which inſinuated a ſort of Miſmanagement in the Reign of *Annaſtaſia*'s Predeceſſor.

His ſecond and third Campaigns were equally ſucceſsful, thro' the Valour of the Army which he commanded, with his firſt; but tho' at his Inveſtiture in his Command, he diſtinguiſh'd himſelf in ſiding with thoſe that were Zealous for the Eſtabliſh'd Religion, and in the greateſt Credit at Court, by the means of a Mandarin, who was chief Treaſurer, and allied to him by an Inter-marriage, he afterwards took Part with thoſe that under the Pretence of Moderation, ſided with ſome Heterodox Opinions that were *Tolerated* by the Government's Indulgence.

For theſe, and other Services he yearly receiv'd the Thanks of the *Perſian Divan*, who were inceſſant in heaping Rewards upon him, and convey'd ſeveral Eſtates, belonging to the Crown, to him and his Heirs for ever by a Publick Act, after his Royal Miſtreſs had advanc'd him to a Mandarinſhip of the firſt Rank, and one of her Allies had given him a Principality. But the Grants, that ſhould have inſtill'd a Senſe of Gratitude into him, gave him quite different Sentiments, and he was ſo much intoxicated with Power, and impoſthumated with Ambition, that he hop'd, by protracting

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the War, which he drew out into a nine Years length, to arrive at the Regal Dignity.

In order to this, he made Treaties with *Annaſtaſia*'s Allies, that were inconſiſtent with the Honour and Advantage of *Perſia*, and took Towns only to put them into ſuch Hands, as had no Right or Title to them. As the Chief Places in the Army were fill'd with none but ſuch Officers as were altogether in his Intereſt, ſo thoſe at Court were to be enjoy'd by Perſons of the ſame Complexion; and the Treaſurer and he had no more to ſay, than, *Such a Man is not fit for your Majeſty's Service*, and his Removal was inſtantly determined.

Annaſtaſia ſaw the Circumſtances ſhe was under, and how that in a very little time ſhe ſhould only be the Shadow of Royalty, if they continued in the the Exerciſe of the Prerogatives that were the Subſtance of it, wherefore ſhe took Counſel with *Azarathes*, about proper Meaſures to reinſtate her in her Hereditary Supremacy. *Azarathes* by the Aſſiſtance of *Berenice*, one of the Queen's Maids of Honour, had well nigh accompliſh'd the Removal of theſe Uſurpers from Court, when their Proceedings took Air before the Buſineſs was ripe for Execution, and *Artemidorus* with the reſt of his Aſſociates, came and threatned her Majeſty with quitting her Service, after their accuſtomed Aſſurance, unleſs the two Perſons juſt mention'd, were oblig'd to do it.

Upon this, *Azarethes*, one of her particular Secretaries

Secretaries had the Seal of the Office taken from him, which was beſtow'd upon young *Sunderades*, who had married one of *Artemidorus*'s Daughters, but *Berenice* was ſuffer'd, by her Miſtreſs's Entreaties in her Behalf, ſtill to continue about her Perſon. *Azarethes* was of an enterprizing Genius, deep Penetration, wonderful Capacities, and therefore to be fear'd by the Perſons at Helm, who being Five in Number, call'd themſelves the *Junto*. Therefore he was to be taken off ſome way or other, and one of his own Clerks was ſuborn'd againſt him; but the very Clerk that was thus tamper'd with, and had Villainy enough to be in a Plot againſt the Governmen thimſelf, had likewiſe Honeſty enough to acquit the Innocent with his laſt Breath.

Nothing, now, could have hinder'd theſe abandon'd Wretches from monopolizing their Sovereign's Favour, and the Wealth of the Nation, but the Interpoſition of Heaven in favour of its Vicegerent, and the Arrival of a *Derviſe* from his Studies at *Mecca*. This good Man, as it was the Duty of a Subject, preach'd up Obedience to the Supream Power, and thunder'd out Anathema's againſt ſuch as put new fangled Doctrines of Reſiſtance in Practice, which alarm'd the Divan that was then ſitting, in order to give a Sanction to the Principles that Reverend Perſon inveigh'd againſt.

Upon this, the Derviſe was taken into Cuſtody, brought to a formal Trial, and cenſur'd

ſuſpected for what was ſaid to be againſt the Government, at the ſame time it was ſpoken in Defence of the Queen's Rightful and Lawful Title; tho' the Puniſhment inflicted on him was very ſlight, in Compariſon of what was intended, had not the *Perſians* by a vaſt Majority been very Clamorous in his Favour. *Azarethes*, that was in Favour all this while behind the Curtain, took an Opportunity from thence of ſounding the Inclinations of the People, and by himſelf and his Friends, in concert with *Berenice*, ſo work'd them up to an Indignation of the Affront put upon their Sovereign, and the Abuſe of their Eſtabliſh'd Religion, that they, almoſt one and all, petition'd her to exert her Royal Prerogative, and to diſſolve the Divan, and form a new one; not without ſtedfaſt Reſolutions to ſtand by her againſt all her Enemies, both Foreign and Domeſtick.

Accordingly their Deſires were given Ear to, and the new Divan not only adjudg'd ſeveral of the laſt Miniſtry, to be guilty of Depredations upon the Publick, and gave in Repreſentations to the Throne, of the moſt notorious Abuſes committed by them, but in proceſs of Time, accus'd *Artemidorus*, who continu'd in his Poſt after *Zaraida* his Wife was ſtripp'd of her Employments more than a Year. *Artemidorus* had nothing to have recourſe to by way of Defence, but his old way of calling Bribes *Perquiſites*, and wrote the ſillieſt Epiſtle that could be penn'd, to the Gentlemen that had him under their Cognizance.

nizance. But their Proceedings were not to be ſtop'd by ſuch little Artifices, and they went on with their Examinations, which at length prov'd, that he had amaſs'd ſeveral Millions from the Spoils of the Publick, and had been guilty of all things that the moſt ſordid Covetouſneſs could induce a Man to.

Annaſtaſia, to whom they applied for Juſtice againſt this Plunderer of the Peoples Treaſure, had a Soul too ſuſceptible of Tenderneſs not to try to ſave the Life of a Perſon that had for many Years been highly regarded by her, and therefore remov'd him from all his Places to make him the leſs Obnoxious to Diſpleaſure and Envy. But the Cries of the Oppreſſed were ſo loud, and the Exchequer ſo low, that ſhe was forc'd unwillingly at laſt to give him up to their Reſentment, who having made an Edict to revoke all Grants whatſoever that had been conferred upon him, for the Uſe of the Publick, dragg'd him to a Stately Edifice which had been built in Memory of a Victory obtain'd by him, (which if proſecuted might have ended the War at once) and from thence tumbled him down Headlong, as a Warning for all ſuch as abuſe the Favours of Princes, or the Goodneſs of Subjects. This was the End of that *Perquiſite-Monger*, and the Juſtice that was put in Practice by that People, who had too true a Senſe of the Nature of *Ingratitude*, not to diſtinguiſh it by a ſuitable Puniſhment.

FINIS.